

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for collecting data from plural sources, comprising:

receiving information from plural entities;

5 analyzing the information; and

performing trend analysis.

2. A method for collecting data from plural sources, comprising of:

setting up threshold limits for incoming data;

comparing incoming data with the threshold limits; and

10 activating an event based on such comparison.

3. A method for transmitting data to plural end-users, comprising:

setting up user preferences;

collecting end-user selected data in real time; and

transmitting data to the end-users based on end-user preferences.

15 4. A system for collecting data, comprising of:

plural data collectors that collect data from plural data sources;

and

reporting module, wherein the reporting module provides various reports based on the data collected from the plural data collectors.

5. The system of Claim 4, further comprising:

triggering module that activates an event based on collected data.

6. The system of Claim 5, further comprising:

user interface that provides a varying degree of options to  
5 evaluate incoming data.

7. The system of Claim 4, wherein the data collectors include a  
legacy data collector.

8. The system of Claim 4, wherein the data collectors include an API  
data collector.

10 9. The system of Claim 4, wherein the data collectors include a data  
transformation service data collector.

10. The system of Claim 4, wherein the data collectors include a remote  
data collector.

11. The system of Claim 4, wherein the data collectors include an XML  
15 data collector.

12. The system of Claim 4, wherein the data collectors include an  
interactive data collector.

13. A data collection system that allows collection of data from plural  
sources, comprising:  
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20 a collector module that collects data from the plural sources;

a parsing module that parses incoming data from the plural data  
sources; and

a collection scheduler that sets up data collection schedules for  
collecting real time data.

25 14. The system of Claim 12, further comprising:

a database that provides data collection schedules to the collection scheduler.

15. A method for defining a data source type for collecting data, comprising:

5 selecting a data source type with a collector module;

assigning tables and/or views associated with the data source type; and

specifying access columns associated with the assigned tables and/or views, wherein the access column provide drill down capability.

10 16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the views may be pre-existing or created for the data source.

17. The method of Claim 15, wherein the data source may be given a name.

18. A method for printing reports using a real time data collection 15 system, comprising:

specifying server name;

specifying report description;

selecting report parameters;

selecting target of the report; and

20 sending the report.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the report is sent via electronic mail.

20. Computer-executable process steps in computer readable memory, for collecting data from plural sources, comprising:

25 receiving information from plural entities;

analyzing the information; and

performing trend analysis.

21. Computer-executable process steps in computer readable memory, for collecting data from plural sources, comprising of:

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5 setting up threshold limits for incoming data;

comparing incoming data with the threshold limits; and

activating an event based on such comparison.

22. Computer-executable process steps in computer readable memory, for transmitting data to plural end-users, comprising:

10 setting up user preferences;

collecting end-user selected data in real time; and

transmitting data to the end-users based on end-user preferences.

23. Computer-executable process steps in computer readable memory, for defining a data source type for collecting data, comprising:

15 selecting a data source type with a collector module;

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assigning tables and/or views associated with the data source type; and

specifying access columns associated with the assigned tables and/or views, wherein the access column provide drill down capability.

20 24. Computer-executable process steps of Claim 23, wherein the views may be pre-existing or created for the data source.

25. Computer-executable process steps of Claim 23, wherein the data source may be given a name.

26. Computer-executable process steps in computer readable memory, for printing reports using a real time data collection system, comprising:

5 specifying server name;

specifying report description;

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selecting report parameters;

selecting target of the report; and

sending the report.

10 27. Computer-executable process steps of Claim 18, wherein the report is sent via electronic mail.